

In the Claims:

A compilation of all claims is provided below:

Claims 1-58 (Cancelled)

59. (Currently amended) An elongated bone implant for use in spinal fusions, said bone implant comprising a section of bone that comprises a substantially planar upper surface and a substantially planar lower surface that is opposite said substantially planar upper surface, an anterior end and a posterior end opposite said anterior end, a first side wall and a second side wall opposite said first side wall, wherein said first side wall and said second side wall extend between said substantially planar upper surface and said substantially planar lower surface, and wherein said second side wall ~~defines~~ comprises either a concave surface or both linear and concave surfaces, said first side wall and said second side wall being elongated relative to said anterior end and said posterior end.

60. (Currently amended) The elongated bone implant of claim 59, wherein said first side wall ~~defines~~ comprises a convex surface.

61. (Currently amended) The elongated bone implant of claim 59, wherein said elongated bone implant ~~is comprised of~~ comprises autograft, or allograft, ~~or xenograft~~ cortical or cancellous bone.

62-64 (Cancelled)

65. (Currently amended) The elongated bone implant of claim 59, wherein said substantially planar upper surface, ~~and~~ said substantially planar lower surface, or both are machined to display a rough, ridged or grooved surface to aid in preventing said bone implant from moving out of place.

66. (Currently amended) The elongated bone implant of claim ~~65~~ 59, wherein said substantially planar upper surface and said substantially planar lower surface are machined

to display ridges that are configured to prevent ~~sliding of~~ said bone implant from sliding back toward the direction from which said bone implant is inserted.

67-68. (Cancelled)

69. (Currently Amended) A method of fusing a first vertebra to a second vertebra comprising distracting said first and second vertebrae; removing a portion of an intervertebral disc positioned between said first and second vertebrae thereby creating a space, and implanting an elongated bone implant according to claim + 59 into said space, wherein said elongated bone implant is positioned such that said second side wall faces inwardly.

70. (Currently Amended) A method of fusing a first vertebra to a second vertebra in a patient comprising:

distracting said first and second vertebrae;

removing a portion of an intervertebral disc positioned between said first and second vertebrae thereby creating a space; and

implanting an elongated bone implant into said space, said bone implant comprising a section of bone that comprises a substantially planar upper surface and a substantially planar lower surface that is opposite said substantially planar upper surface, an anterior end and a posterior end opposite said anterior end, a first side wall and a second side wall opposite said first side wall, wherein said first side wall and said second side wall extend between said substantially planar upper surface and said substantially planar lower surface, and wherein said second side wall ~~defines~~ comprises either a concave surface or both linear and concave surfaces, said first side wall and said second side wall being elongated relative to said anterior end and said posterior end;

wherein said elongated bone implant is positioned in said space such that said second side wall faces inwardly.

71. (Original) The method of claim 70, wherein said elongated bone implant is positioned such that said anterior end is directed toward the anterior side of said patient and said posterior end is directed toward the posterior side of said patient.

72. (New) An elongated bone implant for use in spinal fusions, said bone implant comprising a section of bone that comprises a substantially planar upper surface and a substantially planar lower surface that is opposite said substantially planar upper surface, an anterior end and a posterior end opposite said anterior end, a first side wall and a second side wall opposite said first side wall, wherein said first side wall and said second side wall extend between said substantially planar upper surface and said substantially planar lower surface, and wherein said second side wall comprises either a concave surface or both linear and concave surfaces, said first side wall and said second side wall being elongated relative to said anterior end and said posterior end, said implant being free of a through hole comprising the intramedullary canal of the source bone and extending between said upper surface and said lower surface.

73. (New) The elongated bone implant of claim 72, wherein said first side wall comprises a convex surface.

74. (New) The elongated bone implant of claim 72, wherein said elongated bone implant comprises autograft or allograft cortical or cancellous bone.

75 (New) The elongated bone implant of claim 74, wherein said implant comprises allograft cortical or cancellous bone.

76. (New) The elongated bone implant of claim 75, wherein said implant comprises allograft cortical bone.

77. (New) The elongated bone implant of claim 76, wherein said implant consists of allograft cortical bone.

78. (New) The elongated bone implant of claim 72, wherein said substantially planar upper surface or said substantially planar lower surface, or both are machined to display a rough, ridged or grooved surface to aid in preventing said bone implant from moving out of place.

79. (New) The elongated bone implant of claim 72, wherein said substantially planar upper surface and said substantially planar lower surface are machined to display ridges that are configured to prevent said bone implant from sliding back toward the direction from which said bone implant is inserted.

80. (New) The elongated bone implant of claim 77, wherein said substantially planar upper surface and said substantially planar lower surface are machined to display ridges that are configured to prevent said bone implant from sliding back toward the direction from which said bone implant is inserted.